

# People and the PURSUIT of Truth

Vol. 3, No. 7

November, 1977

## CONTENTS

| <u>Title</u>  | <u>Author</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| "Clandestine America" and its Relation to "People and the PURSUIT of Truth" / by David B. Williams and Edmund C. Berkeley               |               | 2           |
| "Clandestine America" — Summary of the Sept./Oct. Issue   |               | 2           |
| The Death of Charles Horman, U.S. Citizen, in Chile 1973 and the Complicity of the U.S. Government / by Rhonda Copeland and John Corwin |               | 3           |
| Evidence That James Earl Ray Could Not Have Killed Martin Luther King / by Charles Cobb   |               | 3           |
| President Carter's Possible Involvement in the Coverups of Political Assassinations in the United States / by David B. Williams         |               | 4           |
| "Citizen's Arrest": A Note / by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor  |               | 4           |
| The International Power Brokers Who Have Jimmy Carter in Their Pocket / by David Wemple   |               | 5           |
| The Sunset Law / by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor  |               | 1           |

## THE SUNSET LAW

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

A number of state legislatures have adopted laws in the nature of a "sunset law": that a commission or bureau or office of the state created by the legislature shall automatically expire after six years unless the legislature at a subsequent time determines that it must continue for another stated period.

Every time that I read about a sunset law I feel happy: it implies to me that useless bureaucracies will expire instead of continuing. This is analogous to a business concept called "zero-base budgeting."

The sunset law should apply to "People and the PURSUIT of Truth". Here is our record of subscriptions:

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| First Year, May 1975 to April 1976: | 855 |
| Second Year, 1976-77:               | 464 |
| Third Year, 1977-78:                | 327 |

When people vote this way with their pocketbooks, it has a clear and definite meaning.

*Editor:* Edmund C. Berkeley, Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.

*Associate Editor:* Richard E. Sprague, Researcher

*Assistant Editor:* Kathy P. Flanagan

This magazine is devoted to:

- facts, information, truth, and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press; and also to
- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

I think "People and the PURSUIT of Truth" should plan to stop before too long.

Dear Subscriber, what do you think?

----- (may be copied on any piece of paper) -----

To the Editor

"People and the PURSUIT of Truth"  
815 Washington St.  
Newtonville, Mass. 02160

- (   ) I think "PURSUIT" should continue. I enclose another paid subscription for the third year, May 1977 to April 1978, as encouragement.
- (   ) I think "PURSUIT" should continue, but I do not enclose another paid subscription.
- (   ) I think "PURSUIT" should stop before too long.
- (   ) Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach more paper if needed)

My name and address are attached.

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To:

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"CLANDESTINE AMERICA" AND ITS RELATION  
TO "PEOPLE AND THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH"

1. From David B. Williams  
Assassination Information Bureau  
1322 18th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Thanks very much for the mention of "Clandestine America", our publication, in a recent issue of "PURSUIT". It generated a number of requests for upcoming issues.

In response to your recent editorial concerning our practice of having no by-line on the articles in our publication, there are several reasons:

"Clandestine America" is a collective endeavor, written and edited by members of the AIB and, as such, reflects the views of our organization. As we will point out in our forthcoming Sept./Oct. issue, many of the articles are the result of a collaborative effort involving 2 or more members of the AIB. We believe that by simply identifying the members of our staff and editorial board, readers will have a good understanding of who is responsible for the publication. We welcome written works from any and all interested parties, and we intend to publish these pieces with a by-line.

Another reason for publishing our articles unsigned is that we need to clarify for the IRS, in compliance with our anticipated tax-exempt status as a non-profit educational organization, the procedure by which the opinions expressed by an individual member of AIB can be distinguished from the views of the organization. Hence, our desire to establish a uniform practice whereby the opinions of individuals can be delineated from those of the organization.

It is, in large part, because of this stipulation that I must formally resign my position as an associate editor of "PURSUIT". The additional factor is that owing to my substantial commitment to our work in Washington, and my contributions to our own newsletter, "Clandestine America", I will have little time to contribute to "PURSUIT".

I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you and trust that should the occasion arise, we will again be able to assist one another in our mutual efforts to let the truth be known. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

2. From Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

We regret the resignation of our able and helpful associate editor David Williams. His reasons are, of course, sensible and overriding.

In regard to the publication of unsigned articles in "Clandestine America", it simply is not factually true that an editorial board consisting of eleven people are all jointly authors for every word of an unsigned article in any magazine.

What actually happens in the real world is that one person (or perhaps two) writes an article, and then it is reviewed or commented on by those persons who happen to be around the office at the time the article has to go to press.

The right way, it seems to me, is to designate an author. The designation can be something like "John Jones and the Editorial Board" or "The Editorial Board, John Jones reporting", or to use the

good European word "redacteur", a person who summarizes what is being said at a meeting and issues the summary jointly for everybody.

I shall not be happy until I see the name of some person (or maybe two persons) who takes prime responsibility as an author for what is being said, and to whom inquiries can be specifically addressed, the person where the "buck stops" (i.e., it is not passed to anybody else), the person who has to publish corrections if correction is necessary. □

"CLANDESTINE AMERICA"  
SEPT./OCT. ISSUE, VOL.1, NO.2

Published by the Assassination Information Bureau,  
1322 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036

The following is a table of contents with capsule summaries for the useful and significant recent issue of the AIB newsbulletin, which, as previously, we recommend to our readers.

1. Letellier-Moffit Assassination

A former Chilean ambassador, Orlando Letellier, an opponent of the Chilean junta, was assassinated by a bomb attached to his car, Sept. 21, 1976. The names of the killers, their motives, and their modus operandi are known to the U.S. Dept. of Justice. NO ACTION YET. Why not?

2. The House Investigation — Progress Report

Blackout of news. Staff changes. Working agreements with the CIA, FBI, etc.

3. Operation MK-Ultra

Research and development for clandestine operations with 149 subprojects. Organized by the CIA starting in 1953.

4. The "Inspector General's Report"

Written in 1967 by the CIA's investigatory staff regarding attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro. Its suppression.

5. New York Citizen and Review Commission on the FBI

Hearings to be held Oct. 21-23 to investigate and publicize harassment and murderous and extra-legal activities of the FBI.

6. Oltman's New Witness

General Donald Donaldson reportedly wrote letters to Pres. Ford and Senator Church detailing his knowledge of the plot against Pres. John F. Kennedy.

7. Who Was George de Mohrenshildt?

More information on a man (reportedly connected with Lee Harvey Oswald) who died or was killed on March 29, 1977, when an investigator from the HSCA was trying to reach him.

8. Assassination Update

Seven items of news gathered into a column: a TV production; a book; a judge's ruling; etc. □

THE DEATH OF CHARLES HORMAN, U.S. CITIZEN,  
IN CHILE SEPT. 1973 AND THE COMPLICITY OF  
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

Rhonda Copeland and  
John Corwin, Staff Attorneys  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
853 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003

Charles Horman was executed in Santiago, Chile, in the bloody aftermath of the September 11, 1973 coup. Besides working on an animated children's film, Charles was investigating U.S. involvement in the 1970 assassination of Allende's loyal general, Rene Schneider.

As a result of the coup, Charles was stranded just outside Valparaiso where the U.S. Naval Mission and U.S. Advisors to the Chilean Marine Corps were based.



Charles Horman  
Born: May 15, 1942  
Murdered: September, 1973

With civilian traffic halted, Charles hoped that military personnel might help him get home to Santiago. No less than Captain Ray Davis, Commander of the entire U.S. Military Group in Chile and head of Naval Intelligence, offered Charles the ride.

Two days later Charles went to the U.S. Embassy hoping to get plane tickets out of Chile for himself and his wife, Joyce. The embassy refused to help. Yet, just 15 minutes earlier the embassy had booked four other Americans on a flight to the U.S., and when the plane took off there were four empty seats. And on that very evening, the Chilean Secret Police came for Charles.

According to a former intelligence officer in the Chilean secret service, sometime within the next two days it was decided that Charles "knew too much and had to disappear." This decision was made by a group of intelligence officers plus an American dressed in civilian clothes.

In the meantime, Joyce Horman went to the embassy for help. They claimed that they had no news at all of Charles' arrest. She met with the ambassador and even Captain Davis. Charles' father, Edmund Horman, went to Washington — but the lid was on tight.

Three weeks later Edmund Horman, still unaware his son had been executed, went to Santiago, Chile, to search for his only child. Atop a platform in the National Stadium, where political prisoners were detained, he cried out to the literally captive audience: "I am speaking to Charles Horman. If you are here, you're perfectly safe now ..." But no one came forward. Two U.S. Consul officials helped

him down. Both knew his son was dead, yet neither said a word. Why?

Three days after the fruitless search the U.S. Consul revealed the terrible news that Charles was dead. And, as for the cause of death, the junta claimed that Charles was shot by left-wing snipers. Despite knowing that this was false, our State Department never uttered one word of protest.

After four years of runarounds, the Hormans have come to the Center for help in getting to the truth. They want to know for certain if Charles was denied his legally guaranteed protection by the embassy. They want to know which American presided over his death sentence. Why was the truth kept from the Horman family? What was it that Charles knew "too much" about? Did he have proof of U.S. complicity in the coup? Did Charles have proof that Nixon and Kissinger lied to the Senate when they claimed no advance knowledge of the coup? Did Charles have evidence that the U.S. was involved in General Rene Schneider's kidnapping and murder?

Why is it that now the Carter Administration refuses to release certain of Charles' files despite the Freedom of Information Act? What are they afraid we might find out?

It is crucial that these questions be answered. If Charles' rights were violated, justice should be served ... so that his death need not have been in vain.

This is why the Hormans came to the Center for help. We have a long history of cases vital to the safeguarding of our constitutional freedoms. The Center's landmark U.S. Supreme Court victory over wiretapping affirmed your rights to privacy and opened the dam of Watergate bugging files. Our victorious appeal for Yvonne Wanrow, a Colville Indian, artist, and writer, upheld the right of women to defend against brutal assault. And, the Center's recent participation in the Battered Wives lawsuit promises to restore legal protection to millions of women who, because they are married, have been denied legal recourse in the past.

We ask your help. □

EVIDENCE THAT JAMES EARL RAY COULD NOT  
HAVE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING

Charles Cobb  
"The National Enquirer"  
Lantana, Fla. 33464

New evidence indicates that James Earl Ray could not have pulled the trigger of the gun that killed Martin Luther King Jr.

It was all but impossible for him to have done so — because statements from two reliable new witnesses place Ray nearly a half mile away from the shooting only minutes before it took place.

And a third eyewitness — a woman who was in the rooming house from which the shot was fired — says the killer locked himself up in a bathroom for 45 minutes before the shooting. And when he emerged, the man she saw was not James Earl Ray. (over)

Based on a report in "The National Enquirer" of October 11, 1977.

One of the witnesses who saw Ray a half mile from the assassination scene is Dean Cowden, a commodities broker with A.L. & T. Trading Inc., a brokerage firm in Memphis.

Cowden states: "On April 4, 1968, the day Martin Luther King Jr. was killed, I bought gas at a Texaco station on the southeast corner of Linden Ave. and 2nd St. in Memphis."

He says he saw James Earl Ray at the station, "looking at the front of a white Mustang," at about 5:35 to 5:40 p.m., and again at 5:45 to 5:50 p.m. The shooting took place at 6:01 p.m. The gas station is 6½ blocks from the assassination scene.

Commented Renfro Hays, a private detective in Memphis who has worked on the King case for nine years and led the "Enquirer" to new witnesses: "It is obvious that Ray could not have been at the gas station from 5:35 to 5:50 and also have been locked in the bathroom of the rooming house from 5:15 until after 6:01 p.m."

Cowden further states that "approximately five or ten minutes" after the shooting, he saw Ray again, on the street near the gas station, "walking in a leisurely, casual manner with no haste."

"He would have had to leave the station, walk to the rooming house, go upstairs and get his gun and go into the bathroom — and King would have had to step out on the balcony at just that time," Cowden points out. "Then Ray would have had to shoot him almost immediately and walk back to the gas station."

Cowden's statement is strongly supported by Thomas L. Wilson, a retired car salesman living in Memphis, who was at the same gas station that day.

He says that he saw a man standing near a white Mustang at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Later, he saw Ray's photo in a newspaper and "felt absolutely positive and certain that it was the man I saw at the gas station. I feel absolutely sure beyond any doubt that the man I saw was Ray."

The eyewitness at the rooming house was Mrs. Grace Walden, who was living there at the time and said she had a clear view of the upstairs bathroom from which police say the fatal shot was fired.

Mrs. Walden said the bathroom door was locked "for about 45 minutes" before she heard "a loud shot."

Moments later, she saw a man hurry out of the bathroom. She described him as "small, short, dark hair, dark complexioned, weight about 120 pounds." Ray is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, fair in complexion, and weighed about 170 pounds at the time of the assassination.

"The man I saw in the hallway could not possibly have been Ray," Mrs. Walden said. "The man did not look anything like Ray."

Oddly, Mrs. Walden was the common-law wife of Charles Stephens, who tentatively identified Ray as the man he saw in the rooming house at the time of the killing.

Mrs. Walden, however, maintained that Ray was not the man. About three months later, she was placed in a mental institute in Bolivar, Tenn.

"I think she was put there because her story contradicted the story Charlie Stephens told," said Harold Weisberg, investigative reporter who authored the book "Frame-Up" about the case.

A separate piece of evidence came from James McCraw, a former Yellow Cab driver who was well acquainted with Stephens and went to his room just before the shooting, between 5:30 to 5:45 p.m.

"He was lying on the bed and so drunk he could not even get off the bed," McCraw said. "He couldn't even tell who I was."

"He was in no condition to be a reliable witness."

"There was no way on earth he could have made any kind of meaningful identification of anyone." □

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#### PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE COVERUPS OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

*David B. Williams  
1322 18th St. NW, Suite 21  
Washington, DC 20036*

To the Editor:

I think you may have been a bit hasty in your editorial of September 1977, regarding Carter's involvement in the cover-ups. We would, of course, welcome public statements of support for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, but Carter's lack of such pronouncements should not infer that he is opposed to the committee's work. I think he'd prefer to let the committee quietly carry out its work without being drawn into the controversy.

It's up to the political will of the committee to challenge the unwarranted classification of certain documents. There have been no indications so far that Carter is blocking the committee's access to the documents or other materials.

Personally, I think that Carter could yet prove to be of help. I'm willing to be patient and see what happens when the committee goes public. □

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#### "CITIZEN'S ARREST: THE DISSENT OF PENN JONES JR. IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

— Published by Latitudes Press  
— Note

*Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor*

We published some excerpts from this book in the September and October 1977 issues of "People and the PURSUIT of Truth".

For those readers who are interested in purchasing this book, the address of Latitudes Press (not listed in the book) may be obtained from the author:

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